

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 02048 141218Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 /072 W
-----018872 151219Z /43

R 132027Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2662
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 02048

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CH, TD
SUBJECT: VISIT OF VICE PREMIER KENG PIAO TO TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 1976

1. VICE PREMIER KENG PIAO OF PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF CHINA
ARRIVED IN PORT OF SPAIN MORNING OF JULY 12 WITH 23-MEMBER
PARTY. ALTHOUGH SECURITY AT AIRPORT HAD BEEN BEEFED UP,
STANDING RULES BANNING PHOTOGRAPHY AT AIRPORT WERE RELAXED
TO PERMIT COVERAGE BY LOCAL PRESS AND TELEVISION AS WELL AS
BY CAMERA CREWS ACCOMPANYING PARTY.

2. AS EXPECTED, GOTT RECEPTION PARTY WAS HEADED BY MINIS-
TER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE CUTHBERT JOSEPH AND MRS.
JOSEPH, ASSISTED BY WELL-KNOWN CRICKETER DERYCK MURRAY WHO
HAS RECENTLY BEEN APPOINTED TO THE OFFICE OF PROTOCOL OF
THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. FLATTERING, FOUR-PAGE ARRIVAL STATEMENT WAS DELIVERED
TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AT THE AIRPORT BY STAFF OF PRC
EMBASSY IN PORT OF SPAIN. STATEMENT WAS DULY CARRIED IN
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 02048 141218Z

FULL IN GUARDIAN; EXPRESS AND TELEVISION EVENING NEWS
CARRIED BRIEF HIGHLIGHTS AND ARRIVAL PHOTOS.

4. ARRIVAL STATEMENT COMMENDED TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOR
PURSUING AN INDEPENDENT POLICY OF PEACE, NEUTRALITY AND NON
ALIGNMENT, AND NOTED THAT T&T SUPPORTS NATIONAL INDEPEN-
DENCE MOVEMENTS IN THE (CARIBBEAN) REGION, OPPOSES RACIAL

DISCRIMINATION AND OPPRESSION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND WORKS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW AND REASONABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST, STATEMENT SAID THE PRC "FIRMLY SUPPORTS THE JUST STAND T&T TAKES ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES."

5. STATEMENT ALSO SAID PRC RESOLUTELY OPPOSES POWER POLITICS AND HEGEMISM PRACTICED BY SUPERPOWERS AND SAID PRC WILL NEVER SEEK HEGEMONY OR ACT LIKE A SUPERPOWER. IT ADDED THAT PRC MAINTAINS THAT AFFAIRS OF A COUNTRY SHOULD BE MANAGED BY ITS OWN PEOPLE AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SHOULD BE MANAGED JOINTLY BY ALL COUNTRIES CONCERNED AND MUST NOT BE MONOPOLIZED BY THE SUPERPOWERS. STATEMENT ADDED THAT PRC WISHES TO ESTABLISH CLOSER RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND TO INCREASE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THEM. REFERRING TO PM WILLIAMS' TWO VISITS TO CHINA AND REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS FOUR YEARS AGO, STATEMENT SAID PURPOSE OF PRESENT TRIP IS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

6. NO PUBLIC COMMENT IN REPLY WAS MADE BY GOTT.

7. COMMENT. RECEPTION BEING GIVEN TO CHINESE APPEARS TO BE ON A PAR WITH THAT GIVEN OTHER HIGH-RANKING DELEGATIONS
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PAGE 03 PORT O 02048 141218Z

FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, WITHOUT EXCESSIVE ZEAL. WHILE IT DOES GIVE PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE ONCE AGAIN HIS INDEPENDENCE FROM "TRADITIONAL" POWERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SPHERE, WE CAN THINK OF FEW CONCRETE BILATERAL ADVANTAGES TO BE GAINED FROM THIS VISIT ON EITHER SIDE. FOX

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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